

## Message Text

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R 192012Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, ES

SUBJECT: SALVADORIAN SHRIMP CATCH AND EXPORTS

REF: A) SAN SALVADOR T-2400 OF JUNE 18, 1975

--- B) SAN SALVADOR T-2290 OF JUNE 11, 1975

1. THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA, COMMERCE, APPRECIATES INFORMATION ON SALVADORIAN SHRIMP INDUSTRY GIVEN IN REFTELS. SOME DIFFICULTY, HOWEVER, WAS ENCOUNTERED IN RECONCILING DATA IN REFTELS WITH OTHER DATA ON SALVADORIAN SHRIMP.

2. THE EMBASSY ESTIMATED IN REFTEL A) THAT 1975 SHRIMP LANDINGS WILL BE 13 MILLION POUNDS. ACCORDING TO THE 1973 FAO YEARBOOK OF FISHERY STATISTICS, WHICH INCORPORATES DATA GIVEN FAO BY MEMBER COUNTRIES, EL SALVADOR SHRIMP LANDINGS WERE GIVEN AS 3.5 AND 3.7 THOUSAND METRIC TONS IN 1972 AND 1973 RESPECTIVELY, OR 7.7 AND 8.2 MILLION POUNDS. (NMFS UNFORTUNATELY HAS NO DATA ON 1974 SHRIMP CATCH OR LANDINGS.) THE EMBASSY'S 1975 ESTIMATE  
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WAS SO MUCH LARGER THAN THE 1972 AND 1973 DATA REPORTED

TO FAO THAT NMFS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE 1975 CATCH COULD BE DOWN UNLESS THE 1974 CATCH WAS EXTREMELY HIGH. NMFS HAS POUCHED FAO DATA TO ECON/COMM SECTION UNDER SEPARATE COVER ON AUGUST 8.

3. FURTHERMORE, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DATA INDICATE THAT SHRIMP PRICES IN THE U.S. HAVE INCREASED MARKEDLY FROM THE LOW 1974 LEVELS. NMFS HAS ALSO POUCHED CURRENT U.S. MARKET INFORMATION ON SHRIMP UNDER SEPARATE COVER TO ECON/COMM SECTION.

4. NMFS WOULD APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A. EL SALVADOR'S SHRIMP CATCH AND LANDINGS FOR 1974.

B. THE EXTENT OF THE INSECTICIDE DAMAGE TO SPAWNING ESTUARIES. WHAT IMPACT WILL SUCH DAMAGE HAVE ON FUTURE SHRIMP HARVESTS? DO FISHERY BIOLOGISTS AGREE WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE FISHERY ECONOMIST?

C. WHY DO THE SALVADORIANS BELIEVE THAT U.S. SHRIMP PRICES ARE DEPRESSED?

D. PLEASE EXPAND ON STATEMENT THAT AT LEAST ONE COMPANY PLANS TO SELL SHRIMP TO EUROPEAN BUYERS. WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT OF THIS ON EXPORTS TO THE U.S.? DO OTHER COMPANIES PLAN TO SELL TO EUROPEAN BUYERS? KISSINGER

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